

OPENING SENTENCES AND PARAGRAPHS

- Good writers work to capture the reader's interest.
- In a paragraph, the opening may be a single sentence.
- In a paper, an opening may be a short paragraph.
- A writer effectively opens a sentence or paragraph by making an important or interesting statement or by asking a question.

EXAMPLES:

OPENING SENTENCES

Imagine the thoughts that went through the mind of Christopher Columbus as he set foot on land in the New World.

All biotic organisms are made up of cells, but just what is a cell and how does it work?

OPENING PARAGRAPHS

Close your eyes. Think of the smallest object you can imagine. Now make it smaller. Now smaller. What you are imagining is still larger than an atom.

When is a rope not a rope? It is when a rope is on a sailboat. The names of a rope on a sailboat and the ways they are used are just two of the many new ideas a sailor needs to learn.

USING EXAMPLES IN WRITING

- A good writer uses examples to develop and support ideas
- A good writer uses a variety of ways to introduce examples.

WAYS TO INTRODUCE EXAMPLES USING SIGNAL WORDS

A second (third, fourth, etc.), Additionally, Again, also (as a second word), Another, Besides, Beyond, Equally important, For example, For instance, Finally, Further, Furthermore, In addition, Last, Lastly, Likewise, Next, Similarly, Then too, Yet another

EXAMPLES:

Many characters in the book seemed dull and unimaginative to me. Jack, Beverly, the homeless man, and Officer Jones are all examples of this. (Tells more about each character listed)... Nate also struck me as dull. (Tells why)

Some examples of the dull and unimaginative characters in the book are Jack, Beverly, the homeless man, and Officer Jones. (Tells more about each character listed)... Yet another dull character is Nate. (tells why)

There are several ways to demonstrate responsible behavior. Certainly one important way is to complete homework expectations on time. Another equally important behavior is to ask questions to clear up confusions. Further, planning ahead to avoid scheduling conflicts helps immensely. Finally, consider packing your school bag at a time when you are not rushed, thus ensuring that you have all needed materials.

Both animals share similar adaptations. For instance, both have large teeth and jaws to capture and eat sizable prey. In addition, the crocodile and alligator are both colored to blend with their surroundings. Further, both have tails that allow them to swim and maneuver in water skillfully.

CAUSE AND EFFECT

- Connecting cause and effect relationships creates bigger and more powerful ideas.
- There are many ways to connect an event to its cause or to signal the result of an event.
- A good writer uses a variety of ways to connect causes and effects.

CAUSE AND EFFECT CONNECTING WORDS

Accordingly, as a result, because, due to, for these reasons, hence, if...then, in order to, since, therefore, thus

EXAMPLES:

Since John planned to become a musician, he took advantage of the many musical opportunities offered by the school.

Forests provide oxygen as well as habitat for wildlife. For these reasons, it becomes important to preserve forested lands.

As a result of careful planning, Hannibal was able to cross the Alps, shocking the Roman legions and taking them by surprise.

PROBLEM, SOLUTION, RESULT CONNECTIONS

- Problem, solution, and result connections are a special group of cause and effect connections
- A good writer clearly connects problems, solutions, and results.
- A good writer uses a variety of ways to connect problems and solutions and results.

PROBLEM, SOLUTION, RESULT CONNECTING WORDS

Accordingly, as a result, because, due to, for these reasons, hence, if...then, in order to, since, therefore, thus

EXAMPLES:

Since John had very little money, he decided to borrow enough to place an ad for doing yard work and odd jobs for others.

Jan hurried to walk the dog because she noticed thick, black clouds in the western sky.

Hannibal knew that the Roman legions outnumbered him badly; therefore, he took an unheard of route across the Alps, shocking the Roman legions and taking them by surprise.

QUOTES

- Good writers use quotes to add authority and support to their own ideas.
- Good writers use quotes to offer readers a different perspective or point of view.
- It is most useful to quote authorities, famous people, and eye witnesses.

EXAMPLES:

"The torch has been passed to a new generation of Americans..." With these words, President John Kennedy rang in a new era in American history. It became an era of soaring accomplishments and devastating losses. Americans saw a man on the moon and witnessed advances in civil rights. At the same time, three brutal assassinations shocked the nation, citizens protested and eventually rioted in the streets, and an unspeakable war found its way into people's living rooms. America would never be the same.

Another key aspect that contributes to the importance of the world's ecosystems is the biodiversity dependent upon them. The ecosystems of the world provide habitat for countless species of living things. According to Sneed B. Collard III, author of Monteverde Science and Scientists in a Costa Rican Cloud Forest, "Scientists once estimated there might be five and ten million species on earth. Now, estimated range as high as 30 million." Each species exists within a fragile web of interdependence on other species. It is this balance, often not fully understood by man, that perpetuates the vitality of an ecosystem.

Unbelievably destructive wildfires raged throughout the western United States this past summer. The government mobilized massive resources, both material and human, to fight and contain the fires. Hundreds of soldiers and marines, most of whom never in their wildest imaginations pictured themselves as firefighters, were hastily trained and rushed to the scene. They spend exhausting hours fighting the flames in unspeakable heat. When asked his reaction to these events, one weary, unidentified soldier responded matter-of-factly, "My country needed me. It was my duty."

CLOSING SENTENCES AND PARAGRAPHS

- Good writers summarize the important ideas for the reader.
- In a paragraph, the closing may be a single sentence.
- In a paper, a closing may be a short paragraph.
- There are many word or phrases that signal a closing for the reader.

CLOSING SIGNAL WORDS AND PHRASES

After considering this, as has been noted, as I have said, in fact, in other words, in short, in sum, in brief, in any event, indeed, on the whole, to be sure, to sum up, in closing, it becomes clear, so as you can see

EXAMPLES:

CLOSING SENTENCES

After considering these ideas, it becomes clear that forests truly are the lungs of the world.

In short, the decimal point plays an important part in the world of numbers.

CLOSING PARAGRAPHS

To sum up, a new sailor needs to learn a great deal. Each part of a boat has a special name, there are different kinds of sails, and everything, it seems, is held together with ropes and line with special names. Sailing provides an adventure on the sea and an adventure in learning.

As I have said, this book did not deserve to win a Newbery Award. The characters were dull and predictable, the setting lacked detail to bring it alive, and the author seemed most interested in seeing how often he could make himself seem clever and important. Surely, more worthy books should have been considered.

Work Cited

Book—one author

Author (last name, first). Title (underlined). City where the book is published: (colon) Publisher, copyright date.

Ex - Carter, Alden R. The American Revolution. New York: Franklin Watts, 1992.

Book—two or more authors

Author (last name, first) and second author (first name and last name). Title (underlined). City where the book is published: (colon) Publisher, copyright date.

Ex - Apt, Jay and Michael Heifert. Orbit: NASA Astronauts Photograph the Earth. Washington, D.C.: National Geographic Society, 1996.

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"Article title (in quotation marks)." Date. <Http:// _____>.

Ex - "History." Deep Space Network. 16 Dec. 2004
<<http://deepspace.jpl.nasa.gov/dsn/history/index.html>.>

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Ex - Oberg, James. "Space Exploration." World Book Encyclopedia. 2004.

Interview that you conducted

Name of person being interviewed (last name, first name). Medium
(Personal or Telephone Interview). Date.

Ex - Ride, Sally. Personal Interview. 20 Dec. 2004

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